HOWOLDIS MISS MABEL ELDER?

PROBLEM THAT HAS PUZZLED BARNARD FOR A LONG TIME.

And Now President Butler Has Decided to Let Her Be Whatever Ages She chooses and to Reinstate Her as a Full Fledged Student at the Uptown College.

imply that you may have a clearer understanding of the series of distressing cumstances that are accompanying Miss Makel Frances Elder during her stormy areer in Barnard College let's outline first of all in a few clear, succinct words some of the basic truths that started everything. to begin with hen, Mesers. Chubb and Mazzey and other members of the faculty tthe Ethical Culture School can't for the We of them see how Miss Elder can be less then 20 years old, whereas Miss Elder mainmins that she is but 18; and this difference of opinion is the bone of contention that has caused two years of investigation, countless inquisitions and solemn discussions, the ating of one report of investigations that makes a book of 15,000 words, the publication of another book of refutation that requires 22,000 words to make Miss Elder's quite clear, the services of Lawyer ms Henry Cohen, who has handled the Ethical Culture School's side of the matter. and of Lawyer Champe Andrews, acting for Miss Elder and her stalwart string of supporters; the suspension of Miss Elder from Barnard, her reinstatement after the Andings of President Nicholas Murray Butler of Columbia, which also have just been published, and many xaminations into the vital statistics of New York and Providence, R. I. For twelve years Miss Elder was carried

along on the books of the Ethical Culture Preparatory School as being born in 1886. ecause that was the date the Elders gave when the Elder girl applied for admission he was anxious to enter Barnard after leaving the school, so a number of the members of the Ethical Culture school faculty recommended her for a Barnard scholarhip and gave her the necessary certificate scholarship and good character. Shortly ofter she filled out the application blank mired by Barnard on entrance it was learned at the Ethical Culture school that e had given the year 1888 as the time her birth, or two years later than the Febical Culture records had her listed.

The Ethical Culture teachers weren' satisfied with Miss Elder's explanation of the discrepancy in dates and withdrew their certificate of character. Barnard thereupon withdrew the scholarship. Then Miss Elder's friends put it all up to Dr. Butler, whose report says in effect that he can only say that really he has about as ch positive information about Miss Elder's age as he has about Ann's, but that he believes she's telling the truth and that herefore Miss Elder may take up her studtes at Barnard once more.

There's the bald outline of facts. Let's et down into the heart throbs.

First of all get it clear that Mrs. France Elder had at least three daughters, Sarah Ann. Mabel and Ruth, and that when Mabel was born she was first called Ruth, but that later her name was changed to Mabel because, she says, of her resemblance to her mother, whose name is Frances. Miss Eller's mother, Mrs. Hugo Seidler, which was a temporary name of Mrs. Frances Elder while living with her second husband, Mr. Seidler, said that her first Ruth is ead and that the second Ruth, which is the resent Mabel, had her name changed from Ruth to Maber before she was christened, but the records of St. John's rectory show that the child of Mrs. Seidler that was bapize 1 there when her name was Mrs. Elder was Ruth, born August 12, 1888, and the present Ruth says—no, the present Mabel says, she was born Ruth on August 9, 1888, according to the application mank she male out upon her entrance to Barnard, and that she was born August 9, 1886, according to her application blank at the Ethical Culture School, and that the date of her birth was August 9,1887, when applying for aumission to the School Alumnæ ociation

Association.

Having gone into these simple details

Dr. Butler says right off the bet that he
doesn't know how old Mabel is, but that he
takes her word for it that she ought to know and so will let it go at that. There-fore when Mabel, after changing her name from Ruth to the present name, went back

Let's get at it another way. Whew! Yesterday afternoon a score of investi-

resterday atternoon a score of investi-gators for this newspaper began a syste-matic inquiry into the story that has come to light that Miss Mabel Elder, a student at Barnard College, at last has settled the question as to whether she was born in the year 1888, as she now asserts, or in 1886, her birth year entered upon the records of the Ethical Culture School, where Miss Elder

was prepared for college.

Not a hint of all the subsequent trouble
that has stirred Dr. Adler's school and the uthorities of Columbia and Barnard was much as breathed so long as Miss Elder went right on being born in 1886. One day she said at the school that she would like to enter Barnard, and the fervent recommendaone of the school faculty having secured or her the coveted scholarship, Miss Elder made out the application for the college. out now gave her birth year as 1888. Quite ecidentally the school authorities, while but now gave her birth year as 1888. Quite accidentally the school authorities, while compiling some age statitics of past and present scholars, learned that Miss Elder was two years younger when she entered Barnard College than when she left the Ethical Culture School, or in other words, that two years from now she will be as old as she is now had she remained in the school; that is, she is now the same age from the school viewpoint as she will be in 1910, according to the Barnard statistics, or the same age in 1910, taking the college ligures, as she will be in 1912, according to the school figures.

Now, then, this much being established, it was next learned late last evening that when Mr. Stark, a teacher and bend of Miss Elder at the Ethical Culture school, met the girl one day just after Mabel and given the 1888 date in her Barnard application Mr. Stark up and asked her how about it, but with the best intentions in the world. Mabel made answer—this was in 1906—that she was almost 18 years old. The school records, she said, were to the bad.

Thereupon Miss Franklin, another of the Ethical school teachers and close friend of Miss Elder, started to investigate the weighty subject and finally wrote to the Providence authorities to learn something

of Miss Elder, started to investigate the weighty subject and finally wrote to the Providence authorities to learn something about the Lirth certificate supplied by Mabel's mother to the school authorities when the dispute got up steam. The vital statistic shark of Providence wrote back to Miss Franklin that Mabel was born on August 9, 1888, but that her name was Ruthalways remembering, however, that the Providence authorities admitted that just a few weeks previously they had changed the Ruth to Mabel upon receiving a request from Mabel to the effect that she was about to enter college and wanted a copy of the of enter college and wanted a copy of the parth certificate of Ruth made out in the name of her later choice, which, as has been intimated some place above, is Mabel. When this letter was shown to Mabel she said that she as born in 1888 and that there must be a result of the state of the s must be a r stake of some kind or other

out something.

Ars. Hugo Seidler, who now had remed her former name of Mrs. Elder, it displayed to Messrs. Muzzey and the house of the school faculty copy of a birth certificate from Provides that showed that Ruth had been 1800 and that how had been name. orn on August 12, 1888, and that her name as now Mabel. Straightway Miss Frank-h, merely to get at the right of the subject,

what's the use? Miss Elder is back in Barnard, isn't she? And didn't Dr. Butler say that she is telling her right age when he says she is only 18? Is it any of your business, anyway, how old Miss Elder is or how old any Barnard girl is?

MUSICAL ART SOCIETY. The Chorus Sings Excellently at the Second

Concert of the Season.

The second concert of the Musical Art Society at Carnegie Hall last night was one of the most satisfactory entertainments given by the organization in recent seasons. The programmes of these concerts are almost always well made, but occasionally there is a restful finish and symmetry about the arrangement which leaves the purist and the progressist alike pleased. Last night's programme was one of this type. The first number was the great "Stabat Mater" of Palestrina, one of those sublime concentrations of genius that stride majestically down the path of time

as if their mission were to demonstrate that a mighty composition need not occupy an hour and a half in its performance. The "Stabat Mater" of Palestrina occupies some ten or twelve minutes, yet if no other of its composer's works had come down to us we should know that he had been a leader. The Musical Art choir put to its credit an exceptionally lovely delivery of this music, which was presented with the dynamic effects and voice allotments indicated in the reverential edition of Richard Wagner. The quality of tone produced by the choir was unusually mellow, and the nuancing had admirable elasticity.

The second number was the "Christe, Dei soboles" of Orlando Lasso, Palestrina's great contemporary, sometime called in his own day the "prince of music." This composition displays in an interesting manner the eager adoption of new musical thought by Lasso, who was brought more into contact with the flattery of courts than Palestrina was. The ascending chromatic progression on the words "Te nihil in toto" seems quite startling till we recall the extent of the studies in this kind of harmony by Cyprian de Rore, a contemporary of Lasso. Perhaps the most modern ouch in the "Christe, Dei soboles" is the losing cadence on "Procter amare nihil."

It might have been written by Cesar Franck. Voldemar Leisring's setting of "O filii et filise" for two choirs was presented by Mr. Damrosch with the two choruses at opposite sides of the stage facing each other. The effect was excellent, and the delighted audience insisted on a repetition. Tommaso Vittoria's "Jesu dulcis memoria" moved by its touching tenderness, while the stirring vigor of Giovanni Gabrieli's "Jubilate Deo," motet for eight voices, brought

late Deo," motet for eight voices, brought the first part to a most effective finish.

The other numbers on the programme were Charles Martin Loeffler's "By the Rivers of Babylon," set for chorus of women's voices, two flutes, 'celio, harp and organ; Wilhelm Berger's double chorus, "Nachtgebet"; Eaton Fanning's part song, "How sweet the moonlight sleeps." and four gypey songs for mixed voices with pianoforte accompaniment by Johannes Brahms.

Brahms.

It was interesting that of the composers of these numbers one, Mr. Loeffer, was rated as an American though born in Alsatia, and another, Mr. Berger, as a German though born in Boston. But Mr. Berger departed from the seat of Western culture at the early age of one year. It was therefore to be expected that his music would show no traces of the sweet and soothing influences which dwell in the and soothing influences which dwell in the

Throughout the concert the choir sang well. There have been times in recent seasons when the old hearer of the concerts seasons when the old hearer of the concerns feared that the early standard might not be kept up, but last night went far to restore confidence and bring comfort to the troubled spirit. It was an evening of both performance and promise.

CARUSO IN CONCERT

To Sing Under the Management of Ernest Goerlitz in Several American Cities.

Enrico Caruso is to make this spring is first concert tour of the country. Although there have been many requests for his services in cities outside of those visited by the opera company on its travels, the tenor has sung in concert only in New York. Ernest Goerlitz, at present acting manager of the Conried Opera Company, make his first appearance on May 1 in Columbus, Ohio. He will later sing in Detroit, Cleveland, Buffalo, oronto and Montreal. He will be accompanied by other artists, including Miss Julia Allen of the Royal Opera in Amsterdam, and will sing the most popular airs from his operating reporting.

will sing the most popular airs from his operatic répertoire.

Ernest Goerlitz, who has been or fifteen years associated with the business management of the Metropolitan Opera. House, has handed in his resignation, which takes place at the end of the present season. He will devote himself in the future to the management of musical artists and will control the outside engagests and will control the outside engage ments of the singers employed at the Met-ropolitan. He is in negotiation with other mportant European musicians who are to appear under his management next year.

ADA DYAS DEAD.

known English Actress Who Appeared Here in Many Parts.

Miss Ada Dyas, the actress, died on Tuesday at Seaton, England, where she had gone for the restoration of her health. Miss Dyas came from a dramatic family and before she visited this country had had a thorough drill in her profession under several of London's best known stage managers. Moreover, she brought with her the prestige of a number of successful roles. She first appeared in New York in 1874, and in the following year at Wallacks old Thirteenth Street Theatre won much popularity by her acting of Moyai in Boucicault's "Shaughraun." From that time on to the date of her last appearance here in 1900 she appeared in many famous plays. She made her first appearance in London in 1871 as Prince John o' Lancaster in "Henry IV." She created the dual roles of Laura Farlie and Anne Colherick in "The Woman in White."

New Yiddish Soprane Arrives.

Mme. Zelkerberg, the Yiddish soprano, ocompanied by her husband, Segmund, arrived yesterday from Cherbourg in the second cabin of the White Star livenies, not because also had not the where withal to come first class, as her impresario, Louis Zeltner, who met her down the bay, said, but because she loves the plain people and thought she would find most of them in the second cabin. Her admirers from the East Side, where she will sing, thronged the pier and presented a floral horseshoe to her.

News of Plays and Players.

Wagenhals & Kemper completed arrangements yesterday with Leander Sire of the Bijou Theatre whereby they will present at this house on Thursday night, March 19, Leo Ditrichstein in his new comedy, "Bluffs," supported by Fred Bond and a cast including Fola La Follette, Kenyon Bishop and others.
Ambassador Baron Takahira went to the

Ambassador Baron Takahira went to the Hippodrome yesterday and with his party saw the Japanese army put the Russians to flight in the spectacle of the battle of Port Arthur. After the performance he went through the building. With the Ambassador were the Japanese Consul, G. Nizimo, Mrs. Nizimo, Mr. and Mrs. Arai, Mr. Imanishi, Commanders Taniguchi, Takenohi, Yoshida, Shigemura, and M. Nagai, secretary of the legation.

Miss Kitty Cheatham has gone "on the road" with her delightful entertainment for children and grown up children, just as if she were a whole theatrical company. Yesterday she sang in Philadelphia at the Broad Street Theatre, and she will go as

resterday one sang in Philadelphia at the Broad Street Theatre, and she will go as far west as Omaha before returning to New York, with engagements in Cincinnati, Chicago and other Western cities.

Rez Beach's new novel will be called The Barrier" and like "The Spoilers" it deals with Alaska and the primitive conditions of life in the new north country. "The Barrier," which is to be issued some time in March, is the first novel Mr. Beach has written since "The Spoilers."

BOOKS AND AUTHORS.

Justin Huntly McCarthy's novel "Seraphica," so recently issued, has caused immediate consideration of its being produced as a play for Miss Julia Marlowe. Mr. McCarthy's "If I Were King" is in this season's répertoire of Mr. Sothern and his "Proud Prince" was also successful both as a book and as a play. The new novel seems to have dramatic possibilities.

Miss Cicely Hamilton, who became famous in a night with her play of "Diana of Dobson's," is an independent woman. making her living by free lance journalism and literary work. Her play is the story of a shopgirl who, inheriting the sum of £300, determines to purchase with the money one full month's happiness in travel and luxury and the wearing of purple and fine linen. The author has never been a shop girl herself, but she knows the conditions under which women work and she has been an actress. It gives her great pleasure to note that the critics credited her with what they call that rare thing in woman-a sense of humor. But she maintains that women have as great s sense of humor as men, only a different one. "It is not," she says, "that we do not see what amuses men; it is that the same things do not invariably amuse us."

The place toward which all book lovers travelling in England invariably find their way, according to the Westminster Gazette, is Twickenham—the place nicknamed by Horace Walpole the Baiæ or Tivoli of England. With it are associated the names of Pope, Swift, Gay, Lady Mary Montagu, Dickens. The big red house in the Montpelier road known as the "Tennyson House" is the place where Tennyson lived for so many years of his earlier married life and wrote many of his poems, the house where his son Lionel was born and where Hallam and many literary friends and acquaintances were entertained

The Irish literary renaissance which has stimulated a renewed interest in Irish history is no doubt in a measure the cause of Mrs. J. R. Green's new volume, "Studies in Irish History." Among the topics treated are the growth of Irish commerce, Irish learning, the national education, the destruction of Irish learning and the new learning. In these studies Mrs. Green will show what a few scholars have long known, that for many centuries the Irish were one of the most highly civilized people of Europe and led the world in scholarship and fine arts. Mrs. Green was born in Ireland and educated by private reading at home. She married John Richard Green, the historian, and besides several books of her own she was the editor of "The Conquest of England" and the revised edition of the "Short History."

The idea on which Samuel Hopkins Adams's "The Flying Death" is based was suggested to the author by one of the exhibits in the Smithsonian Institution at Washington. In company with Mr. Knight, who does much of the work of reconstructing prehistorie creatures for the Government. Mr. Adams was walking through the museum when his eye fell on a rock bearing a curious print. "That looks like a fossil hand print," he remarked. "It isn't." said Mr. Knight. "In fact the nearest hand was some millions of years in the future when a pterodactyl set his foot there. But if you want a handmark look up the pterandon." Mr. Adams followed the advice and thus derived the incident of the "print on the sand" which forms the basis of mystery in the novel.

Prof. Irving Babbitt has just sailed for Europe on a half year's leave of absence from Harvard. His new book, "Literature and the American Colleges." will be published in about a month. It is a protest against the undue encroachments of science and other utilitarian studies upon the educational field, but it is addressed quite as much to the general reader as to the professional and educational public.

Mr. Ellsworth Huntington, the author of "The Pulse of Asia," has spent three years in Central Asia and four in Asia Minor. He has devoted an uninterrupted year to the preparation of his book and several technical papers, which have been published in England as well as America and are pronounced by English authorities of special value as illustrating the geographic basis of history.

That the American child is not the original type of irreverence toward parental dignity is proved by Dr. Grenfell's readings from the ancient papyri, in which occurs a sarcastic letter addressed by a bad boy of fourteen to his father between the second and third centuries B. C. The father was going to Alexandria and refused to take his son with him. "This is a fine thing," the lad wrote. "If you won't take me to Alexandria I won't write you a letter or speak to you or say good-by to you." He also threatened not to eat or drink and wound up with a very modern boyish exclamation: There now!

The series of papers now being published by the Spectator on "The Problems and Perils of Socialism" deals with The Family in the current issue. "The clearest thinkers among the socialists of ancient and modern times," says the writer, "the men who by the aid of reasoning and analysis have thought out what would happen under socialism, have been obliged to recognize that it could not be maintained of the family of the family e to have a was essential if his state secure foundation. The attack on the by the socialists is at present made

hood and the treatment of the unemployed. Sir James Knowles, the founder and proprietor of the Nineteenth Century, who died last month, was the first to suggest the dea of the Metaphysical Society "for the free discussion of Christian evidence by those ranged on the side of faith and unfaith." Among the early members of this society were Tennyson, Dean Stanley, Tyndall, Huxley, James Martineau, Bagehot, Froude, Frederic Harrison, Cardinal Manning and Gladstone.

up of four different proposals: Old age

pensions, the state feeding of school chil-

dren, the so-called endowment of mother-

M. André Chevrillon in a recently published article urges that the general English vote would have placed George Meredith far above Mr. Kipling as the winner of the Nobel prize. Mr. Kipling represents to the French writer a spirit of imperial rule which views unfamiliar types with impatience and does not encourage independent thought. Mr. Kipling's heyday is gone, he says, and the new spirit has uncompromising ideals of thought and progress at once French and Meredithian.

A volume is in preparation which will



A Fortune in Smoke

You know "Get-Rich-Quick Wallingford," who has been figuring in the bully series of stories in THE SATURDAY EVENING POST. J. Rufus Wallingford is the greatest character of the under-world since Raffles, and he operates in a higher plane. But in this week's issue of THE SATURDAY EVENING POST J. Rufus gets his. He joins the most extensive club in the world, "The Down and Out Club."

The game looked good to start with. Meers, himself, told him, "You're an honor to the family. I didn't suppose there were many more games left, but you've sprung a new one, and it's a peach.

But life turns yellow to J. Rufus, and even his wife has to admit that "upon thistles grow no roses." The story is called a "Fortune in Smoke." It makes a hit with us, and it will with you.

Another story in this week's issue of THE SATURDAY EVENING POST is "The White Light of Publicity," by Charles Belmont Davis, in which the hero asserts that "Women do not commit suicide," and toward the end, although he does not assert it, he seems on the point of committing matrimony.

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contain a number of unpublished letters by Edward Fitzgerald. The title of the book "Edward Fitzgerald and 'Posh' Herring Merchants," and the story of Fitzgerald's friendship with his favorite boatman is elucidated by Mr. James Blyth.

Mr. Swinburne's long expected poem, "The Duke of Gaudia," is to be published in April both in England and in America.

M. Rostand is staying at his Cambo county house perfecting the new play, "Chanwhich M. Coquelin will put on the stage. M. Rostand has at last sent for the artist and costumier to discuss the "decoration," scenery, dresses, &c., of the long expected play, which is a buman presentment in the style of Aristophanes and the tales of the Middle Ages of the life and manners of animals

It is interesting to learn from an English periodical that the young son of the first woman senior wrangler, Miss Agneta Ramsay, who afterward married the master of Trinity, Cambridge, has achieved the great distinction of winning the Cambridge Porson scholarship. Having won the highest honors possible, the same in fact as those won by her husband, the "senior wrangler," the fine classical scholar and expert mathematician, married and settled down to devote herself to her children, one of whom seems to have reaped the reward of having two clever parents.

The English Mr. Winston Churchill is credited with having made the cryptic announcement that "nobody should have anything till everybody had had something," which may be a gratification to the

The author of "The Christian" has recently been in Assouan seeing the devastation wrought by the great dam in the island of Phile, where "Pharaoh's Bed" rises now straight out of the water. The English author is said to be there for the purpose of seeking copy for a book or play, the scene of which is to be laid-not in the Isle of Man.

Miss Muriel Darche, the author of the new novel "The Porters of Woodthorpe," has been able to picture the theatrical scenes from her own experience on the stage. As Miss Marian Dale she walked on at the Lyceum when Mr. Waller was playing "Henry V." Her story is a study of lower middle class provincial life.

There are many vivid little word pictures in "Leaves from a Life," recently brought out anonymously in England. Queen Victoria visited the writer's father in connection with a big picture he was painting. One of the little Princes made the naive remark at the top of his voice: "I didn't know artists lived in such big houses," only to be silenced at once by his mother's look, which was sufficient to quell the stoutest heart. George Cruikshank, Charles Dickens, Thackeray, Edmund Yates and other great men appear in the "Leaves." Dickens is described as "rather florid in his dress," Robert Browning as "a short man always most carefully dressed; he had a spiendid head. Some one once said of him that he would 'die in a dress suit.'"

"Mignon" at the Metropolitan. "Mignon" was repeated at the Metropolitan Opera House last night with the same cast as heard in it before. The same cast as heard in it before. The audience was one of the largest recently seen at a Thursday night performance. Miss Farrar gave the audience pleasure as Mignow and Miss Abott's colorature singing in the rôle of Filina evoked warm applause. Mr. Bonci was a capable Wilhelm Meister and Mr. Plançon sang well as Lotario. Mine. Jacoby had a very sad time with Frederics's gayotte.

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THE CONGRESS OF MOTHERS.

WASHINGTON, March 12.-Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt attended a session of the International Congress of Mothers to-day. She was accompanied by Mrs. William Sheffield Cowles. President Roosevelt's sister and Miss Isabel Hagner. Mrs. Roosevelt did not care to sit on the platform, so she and her companions were seated in front of it. She kaghed at humorous hits and applauded frequently. Her heartiest laugh came when one of the speakers said that all the body needed in its first days was

soap, soup and sleep." Then Mrs. Schoff, the president of the congress, told a little incident appropriate Mrs. Roosevelt's presence. She said she attended a reception given to the mothers by the Governor of New York in Albany in 1900, that the Governor and his wife asked her to see the "baby." they reached the nursery the Governor took the baby in his arms and sang a verse

took the baby in his arms and sang a verse of a Dutch "sleep song."

Mrs. Schoff told how Mr. Roosevelt as Governor and President had helped along the mothers' cause. "Here we find him just as strong for the work of the mothers," she said, "and he is just as earnest in his efforts to help us. We have found the doors of the White House open to us, just as the doors of the Governor's mansion were. I feel that it is due to President Roosevelt that the mothers congress idea Roosevelt that the mothers congress idea has spread to the uttermost parts of the civilized world," declared Mrs. Schoff. "and we are proud to number among our members the wife of the President of the United States and to have her with us this morning. Lacies, Mrs. Theodore Roose-

At the announcement the audience arose and applauded. Mrs. Roosevelt also arose and bowed in acknowledgment of the ova-

tion.
Several papers were read at the session attended by Mrs. Roosevelt. Mrs. David O. Mears of Albany, who spoke of "The Home," told a story about a child who said pitifully, "I wish, mamma, that I was a mission," and when called on by her mother to explain answered, "Then you would have a day for me, perhaps."

Mrs. Roosevelt showed her approval of an address by Mrs. Francis Sheldon Bolton of New Haven on the physical care of the child.

child.

At to-night's session of the congress Charles P. Neill, United States Commissioner of Labor, delivered an address on child labor, and Graham Romeyn Taylor of Chicago gave a lecture on public recreation.

Crane Talks to Dramatle Students. The graduation exercises of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts were held at Academy of Dramatic Arts were held at the Empire Theatre yesterday afternoon, when a classof thirty-five received diplomas. Medals were awarded to Misses Herndon Kearns of Brooklyn, Anne Du Bignon of Philadelphia and Horace H. Porter of Baltimore. William H. Crane told the graduates his experiences as a beginner.



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